



Obsidian COVID-19 Protocols September 1, 2021 v14

Recent changes in light of the surge in COVID cases:

Under the Governor's direction, the OHA rule will require masks for all individuals — regardless of vaccination status — in outdoor settings in which individuals from different households are unable to consistently maintain physical distance. The rule does not apply to fleeting encounters, such as two individuals walking by one another on a trail or in a park. While the rule does not apply to outdoor gatherings at private residences, masks are strongly recommended in those settings when individuals from different households do not consistently maintain physical distance.

To follow the Governor's directive, we will maintain a 6' social distance or wear a mask on Club outings or gatherings. All participants are expected to follow these rules on the trail. Walking side-by-side with another person on the trail is not considered a fleeting encounter.

When signing up online and at the trailhead it clearly states that the leader can deny trip participation to anyone for any reason; this includes vaccination status or unwillingness to follow these protocols.

Carpooling is still not organized formally by the Club or the trip leader. We provide information online regarding drivers and those needing a ride so that leaders know how many people they can expect to make the trip and to provide potential participants information so they can arrange rides on their own should they choose to do so. While we are not organizing carpooling, participants who decide to do it on their own are required to follow state safety protocol. For example, persons from the same household are not expected to wear masks in vehicles. Failure to follow state and local protocol may result in the leader denying participation in the event.

As Obsidians we value the safety of our members and of communities wherever and whenever we adventure into the outdoors. In order for the Obsidians to safely restart our activities we have developed a set of protocols for trip leaders and trip participants. Our protocols follow current federal, state, and local guidelines as per our Trip Leaders Guide which states "*Obsidian activities shall comply with the rules, regulations and policies of the agency having jurisdiction of the area being visited.*" This includes rules that apply to COVID-19. In addition, we have developed club requirements and guidelines which address COVID-19 outdoor practices. For our activities to be safe for everyone and for them to be allowed to continue, we must all follow all applicable rules and guidelines.